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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

14 JANUARY 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Temecula – US Border Patrol Arrests Driver of SUV Transporting Methamphetamine

(U) Border Patrol agents arrested a man who had more than 90-packages of methamphetamine hidden inside his car. An agent observed a suspicious Ford Explorer. The driver of the Explorer exited onto Highway 395 and parked at a gas station. The agent engaged the driver in conversation while his canine partner performed an exterior check of the Explorer, shortly after the canine alerted to the vehicle. A detailed search of the vehicle yielded 96-packages of methamphetamine inside the gas tank, spare tire compartment, and quarter panels of the vehicle. With a weight of 101.31-pounds, the meth is valued at approximately \$191,900.

SOURCE: 13 January 2020, [CBP Press Release](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Border Patrol Seizes More than \$1M of Drugs in the Rio Grande Valley

(U) Edinburg – Drug smuggling attempts lead to the seizure of more than 1250-pounds of marijuana. In one incident, agents referred a vehicle for secondary inspection after a canine unit alerted to it. A secondary inspection of the vehicle revealed more than 195-pounds of marijuana worth \$156K, concealed inside an auxiliary fuel tank. In a second incident, agents observed several drug smugglers make landfall and proceeded to load multiple bundles of marijuana into a minivan. The van attempted to leave the area, but the driver abandoned the vehicle upon seeing the responding agents. Agents searched the van and discovered more than 880-pounds of marijuana worth more than \$705K.

SOURCE: 13 January 2020, [CBP Press Release](#)

(U) Texas – US Border Patrol Field Operations Seizes \$1.5 Million Worth of Cocaine

(U) Pharr – US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) intercepted \$1,538,500 worth of alleged cocaine hidden within a trailer hauling a commercial shipment. Utilizing all available tools and resources, including non-intrusive imaging (NII) technology, the officers discovered 80-packages weighing 199.5-pounds of alleged cocaine hidden within the trailer. CBP OFO seized the narcotics along with the tractor trailer, the case remains under investigation by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI).

SOURCE: 13 January 2020, [CBP Press Releases](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Investigation Finds Pensacola Naval Station Shooting was Act of Terrorism

(U) Washington – Attorney General William Barr announced yesterday that the December 2019 shooting at a military base that left three dead was an act of terrorism. Barr made the comments while delivering the results from a month-long investigation into the attack, which was carried out by a member of the Royal Saudi Air Force who had enrolled in the US Naval Air Station Pensacola training program. Lieutenant Mohammed Saeed Alshamrani killed three US sailors and wounded eight others after entering the building grounds of the naval station. Alshamrani was shot and killed by responding police amid the massacre.

SOURCE: 13 January 2020, [The Hill](#)

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(U) New York – Hanukkah Machete Attack Suspect Pleads Not Guilty to Federal Charges

(U) White Plains – The man accused of slashing at least five people in a machete rampage at the home of a Hasidic Rabbi during a Hanukkah celebration pleaded not guilty to federal hate crime charges yesterday. A federal grand jury indicted Grafton Thomas, 37, late last week with additional counts of hate crimes for the December 2019 stabbing of members of the Orthodox Jewish community, bringing the number of federal charges he faces to ten. Each count carries a maximum prison term of life.

SOURCE: 13 January 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Germany – Extremist Jailed for Syrian Massacre**

(U) Berlin – An ex-member of al-Qai'da affiliate Nusra Front has been sentenced to life in prison for involvement in a 2013 massacre of regime forces. A German court sentenced a 31-year-old Syrian man to life in prison for double homicide and accessory to 17 counts of murder committed during his time as an Islamist militant in northern Syria. The victims were members of Syrian security forces and army personnel captured during the first years of the conflict. Three other defendants were also handed down prison sentences ranging from three to eight years.

SOURCE: 13 January 2020, [DW](#)

(U) Germany – Police Raid Militants Suspected of Planning Attack

(U) Berlin – Police carried out raids at properties across four German states targeting suspected Islamists who were believed to be planning a serious violent act endangering the state. The raids took place in Berlin, as well as in the eastern states of Brandenburg, Thuringia, and the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia. The suspects involved are between 23 and 28 years old, authorities said in a statement after the operation. The statement did not say how many people had been detained or questioned by police.

SOURCE: 14 January 2020, [DW](#)

(U) Spain – Police Bust Human Smuggling Ring

(U) Madrid – Police in Spain and Gibraltar have arrested 47 people in connection to an unusual migrant-smuggling network which flew Moroccans into the tiny British territory then sneaked them over the border to Spain. The trafficking ring, which had operatives in Morocco, Gibraltar, and Spain, managed to sneak more than 130 Moroccans into Spain, earning profits of more than a million dollars. In Morocco, the traffickers would compile a travel itinerary for each prospective migrant, including accommodation reservations and a dossier containing fraudulent supporting documents, to obtain a short-stay UK visa.

SOURCE: 13 January 2020, [France 24](#)

(U) Yemen – US Military Killed Terrorist Behind USS Cole Bombing

(U) Ma'rib – The terrorist behind the 2000 attack on the USS Cole was killed in a US airstrike in Yemen. Jamel Ahmed Mohammed Ali Al-Badawi was an al Qaeda operative who the US believes helped orchestrate the October 2000, bombing of the US guided missile destroyer, which killed 17 American sailors. Intelligence indicators show al-Badawi was killed in a strike in Yemen as a result of a joint US military and intelligence operation.

SOURCE: 13 January 2020, [CNN](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

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